

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1280019-0

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1233996-0

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September 7, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO MR. REVELL

RE: JOHNNY CARSON

[redacted] who represents Johnny Carson on a number of matters, came by today to discuss a problem Mr. Carson is confronting.

Mr. Carson is in the midst of a well publicized divorce. Under California law his assets become the subject of public scrutiny. As a result of the divorce proceedings, the number of threats of various kinds on Mr. Carson have materially increased. Some are extortionate in nature, others are simply threats of harm. These matters have been uniformly turned over to Special Agent [redacted] (sp?) in the Los Angeles Division.

Mr. Carson is interested in seeking a protective order to shield his disclosure of assets from the general public, while making full disclosure to [redacted]. He believes this would help reduce the threats and potential harm that he associates with the publicity about his domestic affairs.

In this connection, [redacted] has been asked to inquire whether it would be possible for an FBI official in the Los Angeles area to certify in some form, presumably by affidavit, that as a general proposition, disclosure of assets and other intimate detail about a celebrity increases the likelihood of threats and risk of harm.

If it is not possible to accommodate this request, we are asked whether there are any published statements by FBI Directors or FBI officials, or any teaching practices already in existence which could be referred to in support of the affidavit. I'm not sure whether we have the means to check these sources or if anyone at the Academy is aware of such public materials. It

Exec AD Adm. — would not necessarily be limited to FBI writings. — — —

Exec AD Inv. —

Exec AD LES —

Asst. Dir.:

Adm. Serv. — Mr. Mintz

Crim. Inv. —

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Telephone Rm. —

Director's Sec'y — MAIL ROOM ☐

SPMT FROM D. O.
TIME 7:15
DATE 9/7/83
BY ja

CONTINUED - OVER

MEMORANDUM TO MR. REVELL
RE: JOHNNY CARSON

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I don't believe we should authorize a major undertaking in this area, but I would appreciate your comments on whether and to what extent request can or should be accommodated.

William H. Webster
Director

Memorandum



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To : The Director

Date September 12, 1983

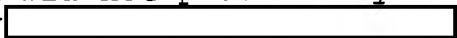
From : O. B. Revell

1 - Mr. Revell

Subject : JOHNNY CARSON
 EXTORTION - INFORMATION CONCERNING

1 - 

PURPOSE: To respond to your request for any information previously made public by the Bureau regarding the proposition that disclosure of assets and other intimate details of a celebrity increase the likelihood of threats and risk of harm.

RECOMMENDATION: That the FBI not provide any certification of the proposition propounded by 

APPROVED:

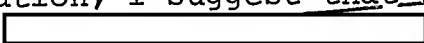
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DETAILS: This is in response to your memorandum dated September 7, 1983 (copy attached), in which you requested information concerning increased threats against Johnny Carson as they may relate to disclosure of his assets during his pending divorce proceedings.

Information received from our Los Angeles Office indicates Mr. Carson has been the victim of twelve extortion cases (threatening letters) in the past ten years. The most recent cases reported to our Los Angeles Office occurred in April, 1983, and August, 1983. A thorough review of the two cases reported in 1983 failed to show any correlation between the threats and the pending divorce of Mr. Carson.

A review of retrievable material available at the FBI Academy Library, Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, and Records Management Division did not disclose any published FBI policy statements or documents which support the proposition that disclosure of the assets of a celebrity will increase threats and risk of harm to that person.

In the absence of such information, I suggest that we do not provide a statement as requested by  and instead advise him that a limited search failed to locate published statements or documents which support his proposition.

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

CONTINUED-OVER

LEGAL COUNSEL

FBI/DOJ

memo Legal Counsel to Dir, 9-16-83
 JAH:gm

Memo from O. B. Revell to Director .
RE: JOHNNY CARSON;

While common sense dictates that public knowledge of well-known personages can increase the likelihood that they will be targeted by criminal elements, there is no demonstrable data to show this, in fact, occurs. On the other hand, security measures employed by many public personages may reduce their risk level below that of a well-to-do, non-public personage.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW

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See Me _____ ()

Note and return _____ ()

Prepare reply and return for my signature _____ ()

Please Handle with _____ () *in my chamber*

Respond over your signature _____ ()

Prepare memo for the Department _____ ()

For your recommendation _____ ()

What are the facts? _____ ()

Hold _____ ()

Remarks: _____ *unavailable when I*

called on 9/14; 9/15; reached him at 3³² p. 9/16/83. See my memo of 9/16

John

See memo Legal Counsel to Director 9-16-83

Ann: lpr

OUTSIDE SOURCE



with
compliments

1)
Jill, C...

Handwritten signature/initials

John Murty
are you denying
this
My research is
suspect!

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9-64116-3

1- ENCLOSURE

2 APR 4 1974

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86 APR 3 1974

9-JC

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

KIDNAPINGS FOR RANSOM

SUGGESTIONS FOR BUSINESS OFFICIALS

The following suggestions are tentative and incomplete as must be any list of precautions dealing with such a complex and unsettled crime as kidnaping. However, their observance may do much to reduce the chance of kidnaping.

1. Instruct your family and business associates not to provide information concerning you or your family to strangers.

2. Avoid giving unnecessary personal details in response to inquiries from information collectors that would be used in such publications as business directories, social registers, or community directories.

3. Review your organization's security plans to determine their effectiveness. Make certain all employees are aware of these plans.

4. Establish simple, effective signal systems which, when activated, will alert your business associates or family members that you are in danger.

5. Be alert to strangers who are on business property for no apparent reason.

6. Vary your daily routines to avoid habitual patterns which kidnapers look for. Fluctuate your travel, as to times and routes, to and from the office.

7. Refuse to meet with strangers at secluded or unknown locations.

8. Always advise a business associate or family member of your destination when leaving the office or home and what time you intend to return.

9. Lock all doors and roll up windows of your automobile while traveling to and from work.

7-68116-39 JHE

ENCLOSURE

Memorandum



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Director's Sec'y _____

To : The Director

Date 9/16/83

From : Legal Counsel

Subject : JOHNNY CARSON
EXTORTION - INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference O.B. Revell to the Director memorandum dated September 12, 1983, captioned as above and the Director's routing slip to me received September 14 which instructed me to handle this matter "with [redacted] in my absence."

The referenced memorandum responded to the Director's memorandum of September 7, 1983, regarding the request of [redacted] to certify that as a general proposition disclosure of assets and other intimate details about a celebrity increases the likelihood of threats and risk of harm. In the alternative, [redacted] requested any published statements by the FBI which could be referred to to support that general proposition. The Director's routing slip referred this matter to me to handle with [redacted] was unavailable when I called him on September 14 and September 15 but I did reach him at 3:32 p.m. on September 16, 1983. I furnished him the information in referenced memorandum and told him that without the documented basis for such a statement the FBI could not furnish the statement regarding the general proposition he had requested.

[redacted] said that he had a copy of an "FBI bulletin" which he did not have with him at the time of our conversation but which he recalled contained specific advice regarding protection against kidnapping and extortion. He said that the FBI advised avoiding disclosure of wealth in order to reduce the risk of kidnapping or extortion. As that was at variance from the information previously developed, I requested [redacted] to send me a copy of that document in order that it might be reviewed and considered by the Director. He agreed to do so.

2 APR 4 1984

RECOMMENDATION: That upon receipt of the material from [redacted] this matter be reviewed by the Criminal Investigative Division with final recommendations to the Director.

1 - Mr. Revell
1 - Mr. Mintz
JAM:bpr
(3)

APPROVED

Director

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Exec. AD-Inv.

Exec. AD-LES

Adm. Servs.

Crim. Inv.

Ident.

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Laboratory

Legal Coun.

Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.

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Training

Memorandum



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 Public Affs. Off. _____ b7C
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director's Sec'y _____

To : The Director

Date 10/5/83

From *OB* O. B. Revell

1 - Mr. Revell

Subject : JOHNNY CARSON
 EXTORTION - INFORMATION CONCERNING

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 1 - Mr. Mintz

Reference O. B. Revell to the Director memorandum dated 9/12/83 and Legal Counsel to the Director memorandum dated 9/16/83 regarding captioned matter.

PURPOSE: To respond to the information contained in the memorandum from Legal Counsel to Director dated 9/16/83.

RECOMMENDATION: To furnish a copy of the press release (attached) dated 2/4/77 that relates to kidnaping and extortion cases. It is also the recommendation that the FBI still not provide any certification of the proposition propounded by

APPROVED:

Director *WAM*
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 Exec. AD-LES _____

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(1119)

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DETAILS: The Personal Crimes Unit, General Crimes Section, Criminal Investigative Division, has reviewed the information contained in the Legal Counsel memorandum to the Director dated 9/16/83, as well as the copy of an FBI bulletin captioned "Kidnapings for Ransom - Suggestions for Business Officials," furnished to Mr. Mintz by This specific document in possession is only one page of a nine-page document (see attached) that is a news release issued by former FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley on 2/4/77.

After an exhaustive review of Bureau files, it was determined that the information contained in this news release concerning "Kidnapings for Ransom, Suggestions for Business Officials, Parents, Children, and School Authorities," was prepared by the former External Affairs and General Investigation Divisions of the FBI in April, 1974. By Bureau airtel to all SACs (dated 4/10/74, captioned "Bureau-Wide Information Program" (Bifine 62-115768), each Field Division was furnished copies of

TPM:htg (8)

CONTINUED-OVER

Memo from O. B. Revell to The Director
RE: JOHNNY CARSON;

this document and instructed each SAC to use this information in response to inquiries from the media as well as dissemination to interested individuals.

This information was not located during the original search of FBI files since we were dealing only with a broad statement that disclosure of assets would increase threats and risk of harm. The document in [redacted] possession is contained in a Bureau 62 file, (Miscellaneous Information) captioned "Bureau-Wide Information Program" that was indexed under the title "Kidnapings for Ransom and Suggestions for Business Officials."

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The FBI document entitled Kidnaping for Ransom - Suggestions for Business Officials clearly states that the suggestions enumerated are "tentative and incomplete." This list of suggestions is not based on any statistical analysis or empirical studies related to the crime of kidnaping.

In conclusion, it is still my suggestion that we do not provide a statement as requested by [redacted] and only furnish him with the entire text of the press release issued by former Director Clarence M. Kelley on 2/4/77.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR RELEASE
FEBRUARY 4, 1977

Nationwide efforts by the FBI to put the brakes on kidnaping and extortion cases have paid off with a dramatic decline in the number of kidnaping cases and a sharp increase in convictions for both crimes, FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley reported today.

Kidnaping cases reported to the FBI for investigation dropped 25 percent in Fiscal Year 1976, compared to Fiscal Year 1975. The ratio of convictions to cases investigated jumped 15 percent. Recoveries of ransom money amounted to more than \$2.6 million, nearly twice that of Fiscal Year 1975. Some 226 kidnaping cases were investigated by the FBI in Fiscal Year 1975, and 170 last fiscal year.

Although the number of extortion cases investigated by the FBI increased by eight percent in Fiscal Year 1976, convictions in extortion cases, totaling 82, increased by 15 percent over the previous year, Kelley reported.

Enclosure to Letter 1048/83 John A. M... to
Esq.

[Redacted]

IRE [Redacted]

9-63111-5

ENCLOSURE

[Redacted]

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9-IRE

"We feel our efforts to alert businessmen and others who are more frequently victims of these crimes contributed to the decline in kidnaping cases reported to us, as well as to the increase in convictions," Kelley said.

"We have been taking positive steps to reduce their vulnerability to these crimes," Kelley said.

These steps included conducting crime resistance-type seminars with businessmen, personal contact with likely victims as well as the distribution of material containing tips on avoiding kidnaping.

Kelley said good teamwork between federal prosecutors and FBI Agents was an important factor in the successful prosecutions.

Kidnaping, with its dire potential for harm to the victim, is a crime which demands top priority of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, Kelley said. "Regardless of the circumstances which motivate an abductor, the FBI's primary consideration in these investigations is always the safe return of the victim," the FBI Director said.

In one bizarre kidnaping, on July 15, 1976, 26 children and a bus driver vanished at Chowchilla, California. The following day, all the children and the bus driver were located at a quarry near Livermore, California, after they had escaped from a subterranean prison. Cooperative efforts

by local authorities and the FBI led to the arrest of three individuals who are now awaiting trial on numerous state charges in California for kidnaping and assault.

Earlier in 1976, the son of a Washington, D. C., businessman was abducted at gun-point and held for five days. He was released after a \$250,000 ransom was paid in a nearby Maryland community. Once again, cooperative efforts of the FBI and local police culminated in the arrest of 10 persons who were charged in the abduction. An eleventh individual was placed on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" fugitives list prior to his apprehension in the Bahamas.

Kelley said many violations of the Federal Extortion Statute involve threats of violence in an effort to intimidate--and thereby to alter the plans and activities of--prominent persons and organizations. Other extortion demands, he said, are motivated by simple greed.

One of the FBI's most intensive investigations of Fiscal Year 1976 involved an attempt to extort \$2.3 million dollars, from a top industrial official in New York, under threat of death to his son, who had disappeared. Information developed in the investigation led FBI Agents to a New York apartment where two individuals were arrested and the \$2.3 million was recovered. The two persons arrested were convicted in state court for grand larceny--extortion.

To illustrate the wide diversity in motivations underlying extortion demands, Kelley said that one such case investigated by the FBI in Fiscal Year 1976, involved an effort to extort \$45 million from several major oil companies by threatening to blow up oil company facilities. Another case involved two female followers of the California-based Manson cult who mailed letters to public and private organizations containing demands pertaining to the protection of the environment. They threatened death to those who failed to comply.

Although three bombs were actually exploded in the extortion attempt against the oil companies, there were no injuries and property damage was minimal. Two men were charged in this crime and await prosecution, according to Director Kelley.

The two Manson cultists were convicted of sending extortionate threats through the U. S. Mails, a practice they allegedly continued even throughout the sentencing phase of their trial.

Accompanying this release is a list of suggestions for citizens to reduce the possibility of their being victimized by kidnapers, as well as suggestions that could aid in the investigation should a kidnaping occur.

FROM

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL OF INVESTIGATION

TO

OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW

Mr. Mintz

Mr. Revell

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10-28-83 SRC: eds

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For your recommendation _____ ()

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Remarks: _____

OUTSIDE SOURCE October 28, 1983

Washington, D.C.

Dear

At the request of Director Webster, I have undertaken to respond to the matter which you discussed with the Director on September 7, 1983, and which you and I later discussed telephonically on September 16, 1983.

As a first step, a word of explanation pertaining to the document which you forwarded to me entitled "Kidnappings for Ransom - Suggestions for Business Officials" is in order. This document is part of a nine-page news release issued by former FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley on February 4, 1977. Copies of this press release were forwarded to all FBI field divisions where they were to be utilized to respond to inquiries from the media and for dissemination to other interested individuals. With respect to this press release, two points require emphasis.

First, by its own terms, the document in question contains "suggestions" which are "tentative and incomplete". The Bureau maintains its belief in the validity of the practical, common sense approaches outlined in the press release and, since the suggestions have been made available to the public, you are free to utilize the press release for whatever weight it might bear on your present situation. Second, the document in question, on its face, does not explicitly support the proposition cited in your letter. While provision number one of the document in question might be

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1 - Mr. Mintz
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interpreted to support the proposition that the disclosure of assets and other details of a celebrity's life increases the likelihood of kidnapping or threats of harm, in the absence of statistical or empirical studies to support that proposition, it remains a suggestion, and does not constitute a Bureau certification of that proposition.

A copy of the complete press release is being enclosed for your information. I regret that we are unable to be of more assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Mintz
Assistant Director - Legal Counsel

Enclosure

NOTE: See Director's memo to Mr. Revell captioned "Johnny Carson", dated 9/7/83; Memo from O. B. Revell to the Director captioned "Johnny Carson, Extortion - Information Concerning", dated 9/12/83; Memo from LCD to Director captioned "Johnny Carson, Extortion - Information Concerning", dated 9/16/83; Memo from O. B. Revell to the Director captioned "Johnny Carson, Extortion - Information Concerning", dated 10/5/83. By routing slip (undated) the Director referred this matter to Mr. Mintz with instructions to handle.

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